

CLAIMS LISTING

1. (Currently amended) A valved connector, comprising:

a connector body having a tubular portion extending proximally therefrom, said tubular portion having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a valve body including a valve element with a passage therethrough, said valve body being axially movable with respect to said connector body,

wherein said valve body is movable from a closed position in which said tubular portion of said connector body is external to said passage of said valve element to an open position in which said tubular portion of said connector body extends through said valve element from a distal side to a proximal side to open said valve element and wherein said proximal end of said tubular portion body is exposed on the exterior of said valved connector thereby providing an open channel for introducing a secondary device to be inserted through said connector body.

2. (Previously cancelled) The valved connector of claim 1, wherein, when said valve body is in its open position, said tubular portion of said connector body is applied against a distal surface of said valve element.

3. (Previously cancelled) The valved connector of claim 1, wherein, when said valve body is in its open position, said tubular portion of said connector body extends through said passage of said valve element.

4. (Previously cancelled) The valved connector of claim 3, wherein, in moving from said closed position to said open position, said tubular portion extending from said connector body penetrates said valve element from a distal side to a proximal side.

5. (Original) The valved connector of claim 1, wherein said connector body is configured in a Y-shape with a main channel and a lateral channel branching therefrom, said valve body being positioned at a proximal end of said main channel, said connector body having a first attachment means at a distal end of said main channel and a second attachment means at a proximal end of said lateral channel.

6. (Original) The valved connector of claim 5, wherein said first attachment means comprises a male luer lock connector and said second attachment means comprises a female luer lock connector.

7. (Original) The valved connector of claim 1, wherein when said valve body is in said closed position said passage of said valve element closes to form a fluid tight seal.

8. (Original) The valved connector of claim 1, wherein when said valve body is in said open position said connector body presents an uninterrupted channel without obstacles for introducing a secondary device inserted through said connector body.

9. (Original) The valved connector of claim 1, wherein when said valve body is in said closed position said passage of said valve element closes to form a fluid tight seal around a secondary device inserted through said passage.

10. (Original) The valved connector of claim 1, further comprising a sliding seal between said valve body and said connector body.

11. (Original) The valved connector of claim 1, further comprising a sliding seal between said valve element and said tubular portion extending from said connector body.

12. (Original) The valved connector of claim 1, wherein said valve element is made of an elastomeric material.

13. (Currently amended) A valved connector, comprising:

a connector body having a tubular portion extending proximally therefrom, said tubular portion having a proximal end and a distal end, and

a valve body including a valve element with a passage therethrough, said valve body being positioned at a proximal end of said connector body and axially movable with respect to said connector body,

wherein said valve body is movable from a closed position in which said tubular portion of said connector body is external to said passage of said valve element to an open position in which said tubular portion of said connector body extends through said passage of said valve element from a distal side to a proximal side of said valve element, wherein when said valve body is in said closed position said passage of said valve element closes to form a fluid tight seal, wherein when said valve body is in said open position said proximal end of said tubular portion body is exposed on the exterior of said valved connector thereby providing an open channel for introducing a secondary device to be inserted through said connector body, and wherein when

said valve body is in said closed position with the secondary device inserted therethrough, said passage of said valve element closes to form a fluid tight seal around the secondary device.

14. (Previously amended) The valved connector of claim 19, wherein said first attachment means comprises a male luer lock connector and said second attachment means comprises a female luer lock connector.

15. (Previously amended) The valved connector of claim 19, wherein said first attachment means comprises a rotating male luer lock connector and said second attachment means comprises a female luer lock connector.

16. (Original) The valved connector of claim 13, further comprising a sliding seal between said valve body and said connector body.

17. (Original) The valved connector of claim 13, further comprising a sliding seal between said valve element and said tubular portion extending from said connector body.

18. (Original) The valved connector of claim 13, wherein said valve element is made of an elastomeric material.

19. (Previously added) The valved connector of claim 13, wherein said connector body is configured in a Y-shape with a main channel and a lateral channel branching therefrom, said valve body being positioned at a proximal end of said main channel, said connector body having a first attachment means at a distal end of said main channel and a second attachment means at a proximal end of said lateral channel.

20. (Previously added) The valved connector of claim 1, wherein the connector body has a proximal end with a cylindrical boss having an annular groove therein, the tubular portion extending proximally from the cylindrical boss, the valve body having an internal bore having a sliding fit with the cylindrical boss on the proximal end of the connector body, a toroidal O-ring within the annular groove forming a fluidtight sliding seal between the valve body and cylindrical boss, a detent on a distal end of the internal bore of the valve body to limit the axial motion of the valve body in the proximal direction with respect to the cylindrical boss.

21. (Previously added) The valved connector of claim 1, wherein the connector body has a proximal end with a cylindrical boss, the tubular portion extending proximally from the

cylindrical boss, the valve body having an internal bore having a sliding fit with the cylindrical boss on the proximal end of the connector body, a detent on a distal end of the internal bore of the valve body to limit the axial motion of the valve body in the proximal direction with respect to the cylindrical boss, the valve element configured with a central bore that is axially aligned with the passage therethrough, the central bore having a sliding fit with the tubular portion of the connector body forming a fluidtight sliding seal between the tubular portion and the valve element.

22. (Previously added) The valved connector of claim 1, wherein the valve body is threaded to the connector body, such that rotating the valve body moves the valve body axially with respect to the connector body.

23. (Previously added) The valved connector of claim 19, wherein the connector body is configured with a cylindrical boss on the proximal end of the main channel, the tubular portion extending proximally from the cylindrical boss, the valve body having an internal bore having a sliding fit with the cylindrical boss, the cylindrical boss having an annular groove with a toroidal O-ring within the annular groove forming a fluidtight sliding seal between the valve body and the cylindrical boss, a detent on a distal end of the internal bore of the valve body to limit the axial motion of the valve body in the proximal direction with respect to the cylindrical boss.

24. (Previously added) The valved connector of claim 19, wherein the connector body is configured with a cylindrical boss on the proximal end of the main channel, the tubular portion extending proximally from the cylindrical boss, the valve body having an internal bore having a sliding fit with the cylindrical boss, a detent on a distal end of the internal bore of the valve body to limit the axial motion of the valve body in the proximal direction with respect to the cylindrical boss, the valve element configured with a central bore that is axially aligned with the passage therethrough, the central bore having a sliding fit with the tubular portion of the connector body forming a fluidtight sliding seal between the tubular portion and the valve element.